



JULY 20, 2004

Some National Guard and Reserve Members and Family Members Are Now Eligible for “Early” TRICARE Benefit

Under the National Defense Authorization Act and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2004, members of the National Guard and Reserve (collectively known as the Reserve Component, or RC) who are issued delayed-effective-date active duty orders for more than 30 days in support of a contingency operation, are now eligible for “early” TRICARE medical and dental benefits beginning on the latter of either: (a) the date their orders were issued or (b) 60 days before the member reported to active duty.

According to this law, the 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program is in effect November 6, 2003, to December 31, 2004, the date the temporary benefit ends. The Department of Defense implemented this temporary program on July 20, 2004. RC members and eligible family members who have been saving their receipts awaiting implementation of this program may now submit claims to their regional TRICARE Claims Processor to apply for reimbursement for medical expenses incurred during their period of early eligibility.

TRICARE Eligibility for RC Members and Family Members

In order to be eligible for this early TRICARE benefit, RC members and family members must be eligible and enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The member’s Service personnel office is responsible for determining the member’s eligibility for the early TRICARE benefit.

The TRICARE Management Activity will send a one-time letter to eligible RC members affected by this temporary benefit from November 6, 2003, through July 31, 2004. After that time, the Services will notify and advise eligible RC members of their TRICARE medical and dental benefits when their delayed-effective-date orders are issued. RC members who believe they are eligible for the early TRICARE benefit and have not received a letter may verify their eligibility through the secure Guard and Reserve Web portal Web site at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal> (if the Employer input page appears, click the “BACK” button located on the bottom of the “employer input page.”)

For assistance with an eligibility problem, contact the Service Point of Contact (listed on the attachment and on the Web at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reservepoc.cfm).

RC members (and their family members) who are issued a delayed-effective-date active duty order that is cancelled prior to the member reporting for active duty, are not covered by the Uniformed Services Employment Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) protections pertaining to reinstatement in an employer-sponsored health plan. Members and their family members are strongly encouraged to consider retaining their employer’s health plan coverage until the RC member actually reports for active duty, at which time the RC member and family members are fully covered by USERRA. The member and their family members will lose TRICARE eligibility upon the date the activation orders are cancelled.



Filing Claims for Reimbursement

RC members and family members who have been “saving their receipts” awaiting implementation of the new program may now submit claims to TRICARE to apply for reimbursement for medical expenses already paid. The claims submitted must be for a covered TRICARE benefit received during the member’s period of eligibility. Members may want to validate their eligibility period on the secure Guard and Reserve portal Web site as detailed above.

To apply for reimbursement for medical services, RC members and family members may submit a TRICARE (CHAMPUS) claim form, a copy of their itemized bill, an explanation of benefits and proof of payment (if the bill was already paid) to their regional TRICARE claims processor. Claims processing instructions and TRICARE claims forms (DD Form 2642) are available at local TRICARE Service Centers or TRICARE regional contractors, or may be downloaded from the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/claims.

For dental claims, RC members must contact the Military Medical Support Office at (888) MHS-MMSO, (888) 647-6676. The MMSO cannot, however, process dental claims for family members. Family members who are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) will follow normal procedures for dental claims submission.

The TRICARE Benefit for RC Members

RC members will not be enrolled into TRICARE Prime until they reach their final duty station location. Upon arrival, they will follow guidance at their final duty station regarding enrollment into one of the TRICARE Prime programs. If they are released earlier, or their orders are cancelled, no enrollment into TRICARE Prime will occur.

RC members inside the 50 United States, who are registered in DEERS but are not enrolled in TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) programs, receive health services in the same manner as any non-enrolled active duty service member at a military treatment facility (MTF) or dental treatment facility (DTF), or by reimbursement through supplemental care rules. Prior to departing their mobilization site, RC members will be provided the telephone number of the regional TRICARE contractor at their next duty station, and instructed to contact the regional contractor upon arrival for guidance on how to enroll in the TRICARE program.

RC members outside the 50 United States, who are registered in DEERS but are not enrolled in one of the TRICARE Prime programs available overseas, receive health services at an MTF or DTF, or by reimbursement through supplemental care rules or appropriate overseas programs (i.e., TRICARE Global Remote Overseas for urgent/emergency care).

Specialty Care for RC Members

RC members who need medical or dental specialty care will be referred by their primary care provider to a specialist at the nearest MTF or DTF. If specialty care must be obtained from a TRICARE-authorized civilian provider, the member must contact the MMSO at (888) MHS-MMSO, (888) 647-6676, to obtain the required prior authorization.



Dental Services for RC Members

If the RC member was previously enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP) prior to receiving delayed-effective-date active duty orders, he or she will be disenrolled from the TDP and will become eligible for the same dental services provided to active duty service members at no cost. Additional dental information for RC members is available on the MMSO Web site at <http://mmso.med.navy.mil>.

Reserve Component members in locations remote from DTFs are covered for dental care via the Tri-Service Remote Dental Program through the MMSO. Members seeking routine and specialty dental services must contact the MMSO at (888) MHS-MMSO, (888) 647-6676, for written authorization before receiving any services. Dental services may be obtained from any civilian dentist in the 50 United States. Information on the TPR program including dental benefits is also available at the MMSO Web site at <http://mmso.med.navy.mil>.

The TRICARE Benefit for Family Members

When RC sponsors become eligible for TRICARE benefits as described above, their DEERS-eligible family members become eligible for care in MTFs on a space-available basis and coverage under TRICARE Standard/Extra.

Once RC family members become eligible in DEERS, they may enroll in TRICARE Prime or the TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members (TPRADFM) program, depending on their residence. There are no enrollment fees for RC family members to enroll in TRICARE Prime or the TPRADFM program. However, to enroll in the TPRADFM program, the residential address for the RC member and family members must be the same in DEERS. Family members must also have resided with their RC member before the member departed for his/her duty station, mobilization site, or deployment location, and the family member must continue to reside in the TPR location.

To enroll in TRICARE Prime or TPR, or for additional information, beneficiaries may contact or visit the local TRICARE service center or regional beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinators (BCAC) for assistance. For the locations of the nearest TRICARE service center and BCACs, beneficiaries may click on the map on the home page of the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil, or call (888) DoD-CARE, (888) 363-2273.

TRICARE Overseas

RC members and family members who reside outside of the 50 United States, will follow guidelines and enrollment procedures for the TRICARE Prime programs available overseas. For more information, visit the TRICARE Overseas Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas, or click on the map on the TRICARE home page at www.tricare.osd.mil.

Other TRICARE Options for Eligible RC Family Members

RC family members who choose not to enroll in either the TRICARE Prime or TPRADFM program remain eligible for TRICARE Extra and TRICARE Standard benefits. RC family members are also eligible for benefits under the TRICARE Reserve Family Member Demonstration Project <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve>. Benefits under this demonstration are scheduled to end October 31, 2004, unless extended further by law.



Dental Care under the TDP for RC Family Members

RC family members who are enrolled in the TDP will continue their enrollment at the premium share rate. Family members not enrolled are eligible to enroll in the TDP from the date of eligibility for the “early” TRICARE benefit at the premium share rate. To enroll, or for assistance in processing a dental claim, family members may contact the program administrator, United Concordia Companies, Inc. (UCCI) at www.ucci.com or toll-free at (800) 866-8499.

Additional TRICARE Information for RC

Additional information on TRICARE and the DoD 2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil and the Reserve Affairs Web site at www.defenselink.mil/ra. A list of frequently asked questions is also available by typing in the word “Reserve” or “Early” at www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs.

DEERS Eligibility Assistance

RC members with problems regarding their eligibility for the early TRICARE benefit may contact their Service personnel office provided below for assistance.

Army National Guard

DEERS/RAPIDS PROJECT OFFICER

National Guard Bureau (ARNG-ARP)

DSN: 327-4189

Commercial: (703) 607-4189

Fax: (703) 607-7184

Army Reserve

The Army Reserve DEERS Project Office

Toll-free: (800) 325-4957, select option #1

Naval Reserve

Naval Reserve Center

Obtain toll-free numbers from the bottom of the Welcome Aboard link
<http://reserves.navy.mil/Public/Staff/WelcomeAboard/default.htm>

If enroute: (866) U-ASK-NPC, (866) 827-5672

Marine Corps Reserve

Procedures for Individual Marines: If your “early” TRICARE eligibility information is displayed incorrectly on the Guard and Reserve Portal you must (a) contact your SMCR unit administrative section if you belong to a SMCR unit or (b) contact your CMC (MPP-60) if you are member of the IMA or IRR

DSN: 378-9427

Commercial: (703) 432-9427



Procedures for SMCR Units and CMC (MPP-60):

After you have verified that the service member's "early" TRICARE eligibility is displayed incorrectly on the Guard and Reserve Portal, contact the Marine Corps Liaison at the Defense Manpower Data Center to have the member's record corrected.

DSN: 878-2951 ext. 4224
Commercial: (831) 583-2400 ext. 4224

Air National Guard

ANG/DPFO – DEERS/RAPIDS Project Officer, ANG/DPFOC

DSN: 327-1239
Commercial: (703) 607-1239
Fax: DSN 327-0033
Comm. Fax: (703) 327-0033

Air Force Reserve

Unit POC

Primary: HQ AFRC/DPX (PRC)
DSN: 497-1262/1252
Commercial: 478-327-1262/1252

Alternate: HQ AFRC/DPX
DSN: 497-1264
Commercial: (478) 327-1264

IMA & IRR POCs

Primary: HQ ARPC/XPC (PRC)
DSN: 926-7081
Commercial: 303-676-7081

Alternate: HQ ARPC/SC
DSN: 926-6386
Commercial: (303) 676-6386

Emergency POC: AF/REPP
DSN: 425-6001
Commercial: (703) 588-6001

Coast Guard Reserve

Integrated Support Command (ISC)

Obtain telephone numbers from
www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/field.htm



Other Related Web sites for Information on the “Early” TRICARE Benefit

To learn more about medical care, dental care and other TRICARE benefits for RC members and family members

www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve or www.defenselink.mil/ra

To verify a RC member’s DEERS eligibility

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/Guard-ReservePortal>

To update DEERS with address, telephone number, email or other information

www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS or fax to (831) 655-8317 or call (800) 538-9552

BCAC Assistance—Click your region on map located on TRICARE homepage

www.tricare.osd.mil or call (888) DoD-CARE, (888) 363-2273

Medical claims for RC members and family members

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/> or call (888) DoD-CARE, (888) 363-2273

Dental claims for RC members (only) contact the Military Medical Support Office (MMSO)

<http://mmso.med.navy.mil/> or call (888) 647-6676

To enroll family members in the TRICARE Dental Program contact United Concordia Companies, Inc. (UCCI)

<http://www.ucci.com/was/ucciweb/tdp/tdp.jsp> or call (800) 866-8499

For information on TRICARE benefits for members of the RC and family members

www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/ or www.defenselink.mil/ra

TRICARE Prime Remote

<http://mmso.med.navy.mil/> or call (888) MHS-MMSO

TRICARE Overseas

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/overseas/index.cfm>

TRICARE Regional Claims Processor

www.tricare.osd.mil

TRICARE Claims Forms

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/>

TRICARE Frequently Asked Questions—Type in the key words “Reserve” or “Early”

www.tricare.osd.mil/faqs

Related TRICARE Fact Sheets

[The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#)

[Medical and Dental Care for Reserve Component Members and Their Families](#)



TRICARE Basics

TRICARE Dental Program

TRICARE Dental Program Overseas

TRICARE Eligibility TRICARE Global Remote Overseas and Puerto Rico Prime Benefit

TRICARE Overseas Program

TRICARE Prime Remote

TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Program

Benefit Fact Sheet